

Adventist Human Subjects Research Association (AHSRA) Conference

Oakwood University

Huntsville, AL

May 14-17, 2019

Submission Proposal:

Theodore Brown Sr., PhD
Professor of Management and Leadership
Department of Business and Information Systems
School of Business
Oakwood University
Huntsville, AL
tbrown@oakwood.edu

**“Biblical Foundations in Business Pedagogy Modeling Christ-Centered Professorship:
Perspectives of Rwanda MBA Students”**

ABSTRACT

The underpinning for this inquiry was incited by feelings that individuals serving as business professors teaching in Christian Colleges and/or Universities should demonstrate and model Christ-centered Bible-based principles in their pedagogical behavior and thinking with curriculums embedded in biblical foundational principles. A mixed-methods design was utilized with quantitative data from a Likert Scale, and qualitative data selected, collected and analyzed from an extensive open-ended question on questionnaires to graduate MBA students, N=65, attending the Adventist University of Central Africa in Kigali, Rwanda.

KEYWORDS: *Adventist University of Central Africa (AUCA); Bible-based principles, Biblical Foundations; Business Pedagogy, Christ-centered, Christian, Faith-based Institutions; Master of Business Administration (MBA), Pedagogy, Seventh-day Adventists (SDA),*

“Biblical Foundations in Business Pedagogy Modeling Christ-Centered Professorship: Perspectives of Rwanda MBA Students”

Summary of Presentation

Introduction

For over four decades there has been a business who have operated utilizing biblical principles in their standard ethical business practices and governance policies (Ibrahim, Rue, McDougall and Green, 1991). However, even with an increase emphasis on ethical conduct and behavior ; business practices in various governmental agencies, public and private organizations and corporate sectors have continued to encounter increasing occurrences of corruption, unethical behaviors, poor management and bad decisions-making, intentional greed and fraud, and abusive of its human workforce highlighted in claims of sexual harassment, discrimination, and suppressed wages. Unfortunately, some individuals guilty of these inappropriate business acts and failures tend to profess Christianity, but are unable to connect and reconcile their accountability to God and the Bible in their business practices (Woolfe, 2002; Steward and Shook, 2004) even while having attended and/or graduated from a “Christian College and/or University”.

Biblical Foundations and Integration of Faith and Learning

One of the main reasons for incorporating biblical foundations into the educational curriculum and courses should be to provide students with a practical application of God and the principles of His word, the Bible, as a means to knowing Christ as Lord and Savior, as well as a meaningful integration to every aspect of our lives including one’s secular professional aspirations in their chosen field of study and work. Liang (2018) noted that effective faith-work integration in curriculum and courses requires a proper understanding of biblical principles and precepts (orthodoxy) and their proper applications (orthopraxy) contextually to the curriculum and courses.

Literature

The Bible as a Basis for Business Pedagogy

According to Liang (2018), a Christ-centered business education should aim to build and develop among students Christ-honoring character in Christians engaging the marketplace of their respective disciplines. White (1903, pg. 138) stated “there is no branch of legitimate business for which the Bible does not afford an essential preparation. Its principles of diligence, honesty, thrift, temperance, and purity are the secrets of true success”.

Pedagogy in Business Teaching

Chen (2018) recognized that in some academic regions of the world, business pedagogy was significantly impacted by the extent of the level of the integration between research and teaching

which may ultimately affects students ethical context of caring for and serving the greater community and society in which they would live and work.

Pedagogy in Business Modeling

According to White (1903, pg. 41) “Those who would impart truth must themselves practice its principles” and these principles of modeling what one knows are especially applicable to instructors and professors who teach courses in the business disciplines and/or also serve in an advisory capacity with students. Lindquist (2018) recognized that it’s very important that proper business behavior be modeled if the desired culture and value is to be created in the organization.

Research Design

The basis for this exploration was instigated by sentiments that Seventh-day Adventist (SDA) institutions of higher education (SDA colleges and universities) courses and/or curriculums should be embedded in the utilization of biblical foundation principles and SDA theological beliefs with articulation concepts also evidenced in the professor’s instructional pedagogy. A mixed-methods (Creswell, 2014) design was utilized with quantitative (Patten, 2000) data from a Likert Scale, and qualitative (Elsbach and Bechky, 2009; Eriksson and Kovalainen, 2008; Tharenou, Donohue and Cooper, 2007) data selected, collected and analyzed from an extensive open-ended question on questionnaires to targeted populations representing two classes of graduate MBA students totaling N=65 attending the Adventist University of Central Africa in Kigali, Rwanda. The primary pedagogical research question pertaining to this study consisted of the following inquiry: (1) The teacher regularly demonstrated and incorporated Christ-centered Christian behavior and Bible-based principles throughout the class.

Results, Discussion, Conclusion and Implications (Pending)

References (Partial Listing)

- Chen, M.J. (2018, June). The research-teaching “oneness” of competitive dynamics: Toward an ambicultural integration. *Asia Pacific Journal of Management*. Vol. 35 Issue 2, p285-311. 27p.6 Charts.
- Creswell, J. (2014). *Research design: Qualitative, quantitative, and mixed methods approaches* (4th ed.). Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage.
- Dupree, J. (2016). Biblical integration into business in the jbib: A review of 20 years of the development of the concept of faith integration. *Journal of Biblical Integration in Business*. p. 89-102. 14p.
- Elsbach, K.D. and Bechky, B.A. (2009). *Qualitative Organizational Research* (Vol. 2). Charlotte, NC. Information Age Publishing, Inc.
- Eriksson P. and Kovalainen, A. (2008). *Qualitative Methods in Business Research*. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage.
- Filene, P. (2005). *The Joy of Teaching*. Chapel Hill, NC. The University of North Carolina Press.
- Harper, L.C. (2014). Learning to make good business decisions better—Another contribution christian colleges and universities can make to improving business outcomes. *Journal of Business Inquiry: Research, Education & Application*. Vol. 13 issue 1, p61-69. 9p.
- Hechts, I.W.D., Higgerson, M.L., Gmelch, W.H. and Tucker, A. (1999). *The Department Chair as Academic Leader*. Phoenix, AZ. The Oryx Press.
- Ibrahim, N.A., Rue, L.W., McDougall, P.P., and Greene, G.R. (1991). “Characteristics and Practices of “Christian-Based” Companies”. *Journal of Business Ethics*. Kluwer Academic Publishers. Netherlands. 10: 123-132.
- KJV (King James Version of the Bible)
- Liang, E.P. (2018, Spring). Lifelong learning in christian business education: A framework and case study. *Christian Business Academy Review (CBAR)*. Vol. 13. .41-47. 7p.
- Lindquist, M. (2018, December). How to create a business that reflects your values. *Supervision*. Vol. 79. Issue 12. P24-26. 3p.
- Palmer, P. (1998). *The Courage to Teach*. San Francisco. Jossey-Bass Publishers.
- Steward, D. L. and Shook, R. L. (2004). *Doing Business by the Good Book*. New York. Hyperion.
- Tharenou, P, Donohue, R. and Cooper, B. (2007). *Management Research Methods*.

New York, NY. Cambridge University Press.

White, E.G. (1903). *Education*. Omaha, NE. Pacific Press Publishing Association. Pg. 19, 30, 41, 77, 138).

White, E.G. (1905). *Ministry of Healing*. Omaha, NE. Pacific Press Publishing Association. Pg. 21.

White, E.G. (1958). *Patriarchs and Prophets*. Omaha, NE. Pacific Press Publishing Association. Pg. 596.

Woolfe, L. (2002). *Leadership Secrets from the Bible*. New York. MJF Books.